THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) All electronic records duly authenticated with digital signature as per the Information Technology Act, 2000 are acceptable as application/ petition for delivery of various services. Government Departments are at various stages for implementation of this provision. Some Government Departments/agencies like Commerce, Company Affairs, Income Tax, Customs, Excise and Service Tax have already introduced e-filing of applications.

Upgradation of infrastructure

468. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to spend Rs. 100,000 crores on upgradation of infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the action plan of Government to upgrade the infrastructure in the ports and airports sectors; and

(d) what are the details of the projects that would be taken up for upgradation in ports/airports sector in Orissa State under the above plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Committee on Infrastructure, to begin with has taken up roads, ports, airports and railways sectors. The investment envisaged according to initial estimates are Rs. 1,72,000 crore in the highways sector by 2012; Rs. 40,000 crores in airport sector by 2010 and Rs. 50,000 crore in the ports sector by 2012.

The international airports in Delhi and Mumbai are being restructured and modernized through private sector participation for which Government has selected the private partners on the basis of evaluation of technical and financial bids. It has also been decided to modernize 35 non-metro airports including Bhubaneswar airport in Orissa. Two Greenfield airports in Bangalore and Hyderabad are being implemented with public-private partnership and are likely to be commissioned by middle of 2008.

In the major ports sector, 276 projects covering the entire gamut of activities, *viz.* construction/upgradation of berths, deepening of channels, rail/road connectivity of major ports equipment upgradation/modernization, creation of back up facilities etc. have been identified for implementation over a period upto 2011-12. The programmes/schemes will facilitate enhanced private investment, improve service quality and promote competitiveness.

The Government have also launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURAM) in December 2005. The scheme envisages an expenditure of Rs. 50,000/- crore within seven years beginning 2005-06 for upgradation of urban infrastructure facilities in the country.

Government have also announced Bharat Nirman for building rural infrastructure comprising six components namely, irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, rural electrification and rural telecom connectivity over a period of four years (2005—09). The preliminary estimates of expenditure for Bharat Nirman has been assessed at Rs. 1,76,000 crores.

(d) Development of Bhubaneswar airport and Paradeep port in Orissa, are parts of the proposals envisaged for development of infrastructure projects.

Decentralization of Annual Planning Process

469. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have instructed the States to decentralize the annual planning process;

(b) how far the States are following Article 243 ZD of the Constitution which provides for involvement of District Planning Committees in finalizing State plan;

(c) the details of States which have the District Planning Committees;